

Council in Resolutions 731 and 748, concerning the bombing of the Pan Am 103 and UTA 772 flights, constituted a threat to international peace and security. The United States will continue to coordinate its comprehensive sanctions enforcement efforts with those of other U.N. member states. We remain determined to ensure that the perpetrators of the terrorist acts against Pan Am 103 and UTA 772 are brought to justice. The families of the victims in the murderous Lockerbie bombing and other acts of Libyan terrorism deserve nothing less. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to apply economic sanctions against Libya fully and effectively, so long as those measures are appropriate, and will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments as required by law.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 26, 1997.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING, 1996—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Commerce.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. 396(i)), I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for Fiscal Year 1996 and the Inventory of the Federal Funds Distributed to Public Telecommunications Entities by Federal Departments and Agencies: Fiscal Year 1996.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 26, 1997.

H.R. 1494, THE APPREHENSION OF TAINTED MONEY ACT

(Mr. GEKAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I wish the gentleman from New Jersey had remained so that he would be able to assert that the provision that he was talking about in the inheritance tax portion of the tax bill was recommended for the package by the Democrats, the Clinton administration Secretary of the Treasury. And we are wondering whether or not Senator KENNEDY or Senator ROCKEFELLER or which Member of the Senate has approved of that provision. So we welcome debate with the gentleman from New Jersey about the source of that provision.

In the meantime, we remember, do we not, when the Democratic National Committee declared that some moneys that they had received, thousands of

dollars from a convicted drug dealer, were illegal contributions to the Democratic National Committee. We were all shocked, not just by that but by the assertion that the Democratic National Committee was going to return this money to the convicted drug dealer. That is more shocking than anything.

We have introduced legislation to cause those kinds of declarations to result in illegal moneys being put in escrow to see if the taxpayers can recover some of this money for good purposes, not for drug purposes.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to draw the attention of this body and the Nation to an absurdity in Federal election law—an absurdity that is causing criminals and alleged wrongdoers to be rewarded with thousands of dollars in tainted money.

Federal election law requires political committees that have received illegal campaign funds to return that money to the illegal donors who gave it. This means that the very people who inject tainted money into our campaign finance system get that money back—if their wrongdoing is discovered.

I have introduced legislation to correct this absurdity.

The Apprehension of Tainted Money Act (H.R. 1494) would tie up illegal campaign contributions that a political committee would otherwise return to donors and give Federal officials a chance to investigate. Specifically, if a political committee were returning illegal, or certain other campaign contributions, it would have to transfer this tainted money to an escrow account at the Federal Election Commission. Funds in the escrow account could be used by the FEC or the Justice Department to pay appropriate fines and penalties under our election or criminal laws.

There is a special urgency and importance behind my message today because of two events happening next week.

First, June 30 marks the date on which the Democrat National Committee long ago promised to return the tainted money it received during the 1996 election cycle. This money was used by the DNC in the election, so justice is not done by returning the tainted money at this late date. But to add injury to injury—a mere insult would be a blessing here—this tainted money is going back to the illegal contributors who gave it! Having influenced a Federal election and perpetrated a fraud on the American people, these criminals are getting back the tools of their trade!

Second, July 4 is the date next week which President Clinton made a target in his State of the Union Address for Congress to get campaign finance reform legislation to him for signature. As everyone knows, the ambitious reforms have hit many stumbling blocks, and they are not likely to pass. Therefore, modest, incremental reforms like this one—which only tries to assure that campaign finance laws are enforced—must move forward.

I introduced my tainted money bill on April 30. The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on this bill on May 14. We took testimony from the Federal Election Commission, the Department of Justice, election law practitioners, and an ethics and campaign finance watchdog organization. In light of their very instructive testimony, we have revised the bill, improving it in a variety of ways.

At the appropriate time, I will offer my revision as a substitute for the original language of the bill because of the many improvements the revision makes. Among them, the revised bill extends its coverage to illegal soft money contributions. The revised version also gives the Federal Election Commission disgorgement authority so that the FEC can prevent unjust enrichment of campaign contributors who would receive a return of tainted money.

The revised bill ensures that 'innocent' contributors—those who have not violated election law or who have mistakenly violated the law in a trivial way—are not subjected to public embarrassment or stigma.

The revised version also improves the "escrow trigger" so that more illegal contributions go into escrow, while only a small number of innocent contributions would be delayed by return through the escrow process. The "automatic return trigger," which assures that agencies cannot keep money in escrow forever, is changed so that the Federal Election Commission and Department of Justice can keep investigations confidential if prudence requires it.

There are several other changes that improve the legislation further. I will happily make available to any member a copy of the revision and documentation of the changes.

As I have said before, there should be no delay in moving this legislation forward. Tainted money is out there right now awaiting return to the people who violated our laws in giving it. The Apprehension of Tainted Money Act (H.R. 1494) would simply stop this practice and advance the uncontroversial goal of enforcing current campaign finance law.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundegan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 108. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BONIOR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. EHLERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]